CAPT. AMERICA
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CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON™

IT'S *THEM*, CAP-- THE NIGHT PEOPLE!

AND IF WE CAN'T *STOP* THEM--THEY'LL DESTROY THE WORLD!

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1941! The world at *war!* And in a secret laboratory, frail *Steve Rogers* became the American *super-soldier!* For four thrilling years, he fought the Axis powers—until a freak stroke of fate threw him into *suspended animation.* He woke in the mid-1960s, a man *twenty years out of his time.* Since that fateful day, Steve Rogers has sought his *destiny* in this brave new world.

JY969

Stan Lee PRESENTS: CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON™

OUT OF SIGHT! OUT OF MIND!

THEY COME FROM NOWHERE AND VANISH INTO THE COOL NIGHT AIR ITSELF. CLOAKED IN SHADOW, THEY WIELD THEIR POWER FOR A MAD, MYSTERIOUS PURPOSE THAT MAKES THEIR SECRET THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR--

CAPTAIN AMERICA and the FALCON!

DON'T WAIT FOR MIDNIGHT! READ--

THE NIGHT PEOPLE!

SUPER-HERO FIGURINES!! HOW MARVELOUS THEY ARE!! I MUST BRING SOME BACK TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ZERO STREET!
OF COURSE, THESE ARE POOR SUBSTITUTES FOR THE REAL THING! BUT THEY WILL CAUSE EXCITEMENT NONE-THELESS!!

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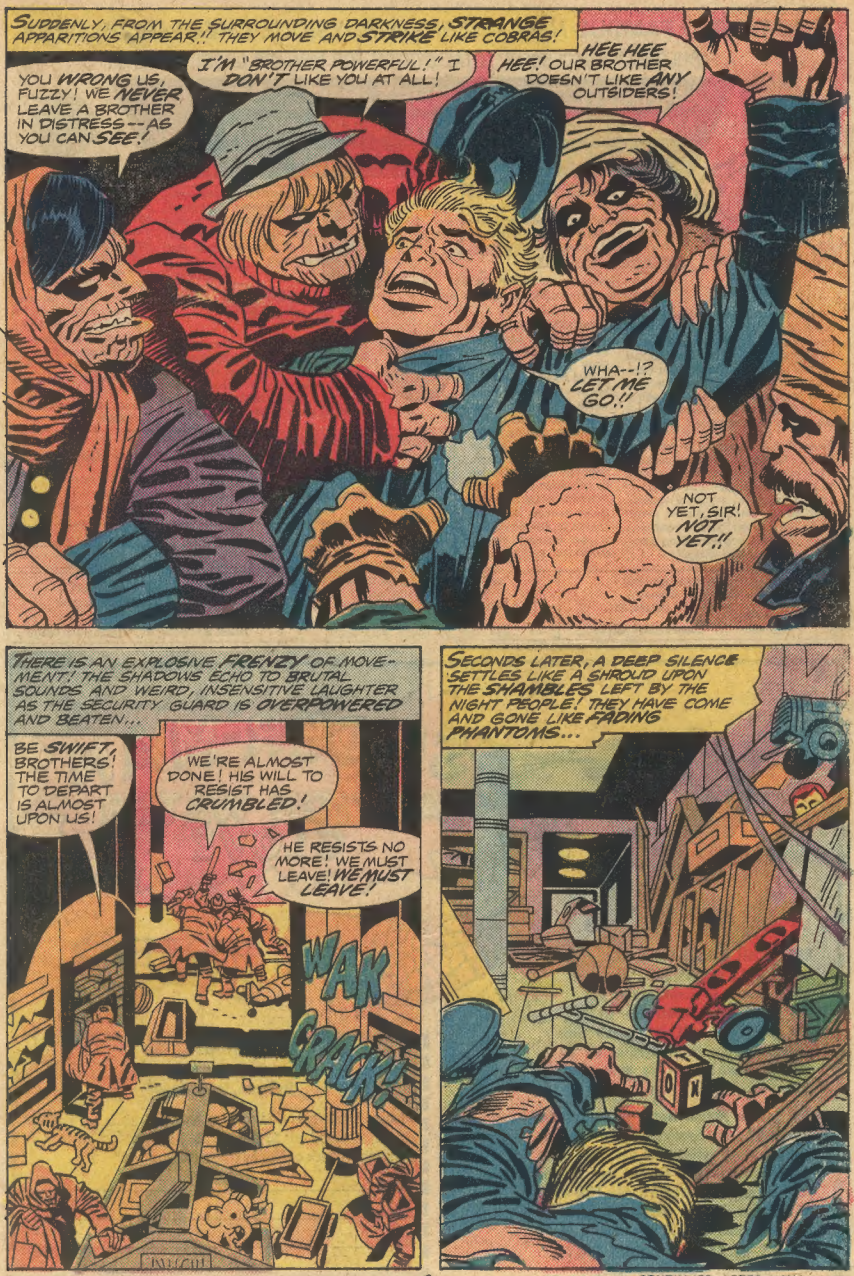
WE NEED YOU, SIR! WE NEED THAT HAIR-TRIGGER MIND! THOSE MUSCLES OF STEEL! THE LIGHTNING REFLEXES THAT CARRY YOU TO VICTORY!
THE NIGHT PEOPLE OF ZERO STREET SHALL NOT REST UNTIL THEY HAVE A SUPER-HERO OF THEIR VERY OWN!
BROTHER DICKENS! BROTHER DICKENS! TIME PASSES SWIFTLY! YOU MUST HURRY! HURRY!
I COME, BROTHERS! THIS NIGHT'S FORAGING HAS BEEN SHEER DELIGHT!
SNAP!
EH? WHO'S THAT!? TURN OFF THAT CONFOUNDED LIGHT!! TURN IT OFF I SAY!
HEY! YOU THERE! STAND WHERE YOU ARE! THIS STORE ISN'T OPEN TO LATE NIGHT SHOPPERS!
MY BROTHERS WON'T TAKE KINDLY TO YOUR ATTITUDE!! TURN OFF THAT LIGHT!!
BROTHERS! BROTHERS!
GO AHEAD, YOU LITTLE NUT! YELL FOR YOUR BROTHERS! CHANCES ARE THEY'VE SPLIT AND LEFT YOU FOR THE BUST!


SUDDENLY, FROM THE SURROUNDING DARKNESS, STRANGE APPARITIONS APPEAR!! THEY MOVE AND STRIKE LIKE COBRAS!
YOU WRONG US, FUZZY! WE NEVER LEAVE A BROTHER IN DISTRESS — AS YOU CAN SEE!
I'M "BROTHER POWERFUL!" I DON'T LIKE YOU AT ALL!
HEE HEE HEE! OUR BROTHER DOESN'T LIKE ANY OUTSIDERS!
WHA--!? LET ME GO!!
NOT YET, SIR! NOT YET!!
THERE IS AN EXPLOSIVE FRENZY OF MOVEMENT! THE SHADOWS ECHO TO BRUTAL SOUNDS AND WEIRD, INSENSITIVE LAUGHTER AS THE SECURITY GUARD IS OVERPOWERED AND BEATEN...
BE SWIFT, BROTHERS! THE TIME TO DEPART IS ALMOST UPON US!
WE'RE ALMOST DONE! HIS WILL TO RESIST HAS CRUMBLED!
HE RESISTS NO MORE! WE MUST LEAVE! WE MUST LEAVE!
WAK
CRACK!
SECONDS LATER, A DEEP SILENCE SETTLES LIKE A SHROUD UPON THE SHAMBLES LEFT BY THE NIGHT PEOPLE! THEY HAVE COME AND GONE LIKE FADING PHANTOMS...

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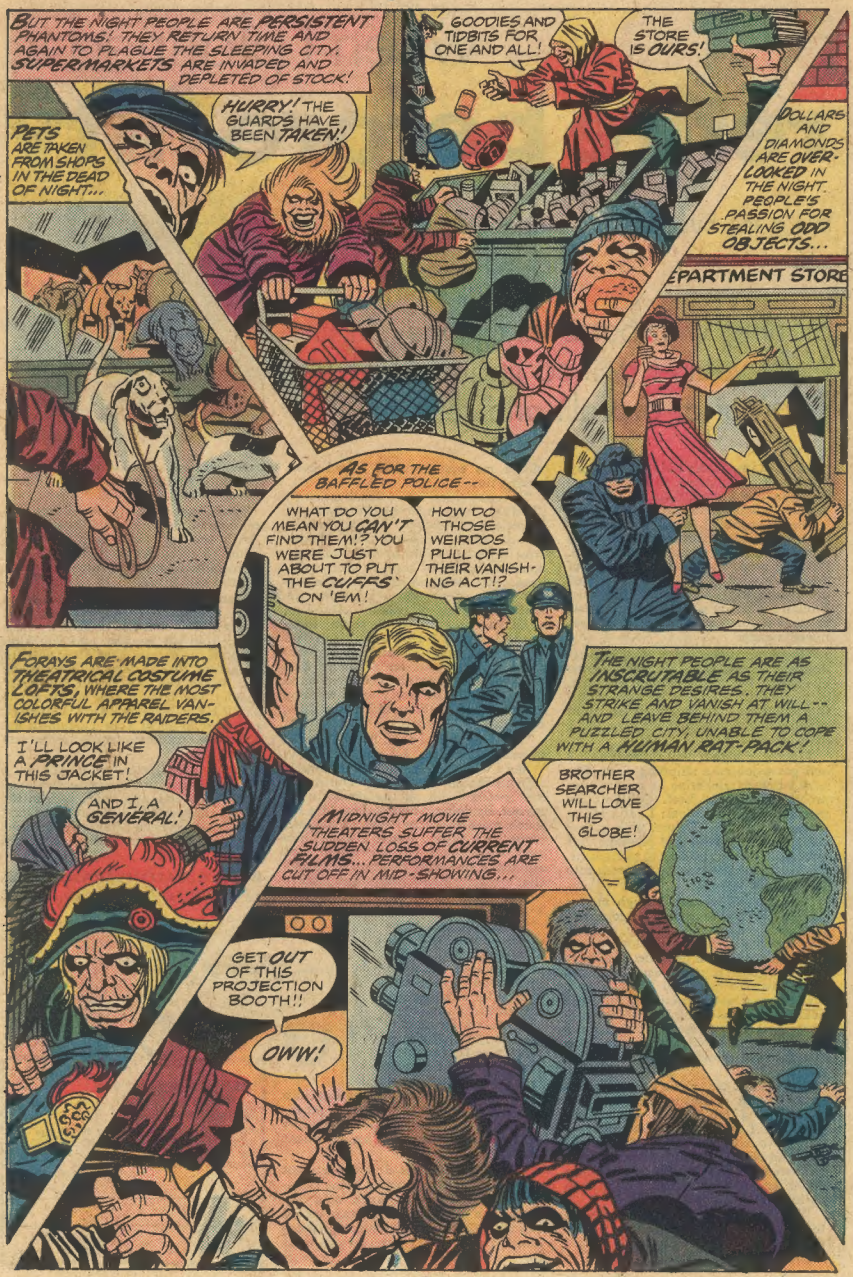
BUT THE NIGHT PEOPLE ARE PERSISTENT PHANTOMS! THEY RETURN TIME AND AGAIN TO PLAGUE THE SLEEPING CITY. SUPERMARKETS ARE INVADED AND DEPLETED OF STOCK!
PETS ARE TAKEN FROM SHOPS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...
HURRY! THE GUARDS HAVE BEEN TAKEN!
GOODIES AND TIDBITS FOR ONE AND ALL!
THE STORE IS OURS!
DOLLARS AND DIAMONDS ARE OVERLOOKED IN THE NIGHT. PEOPLE'S PASSION FOR STEALING ODD OBJECTS...
EPARTMENT STORE
AS FOR THE BAFFLED POLICE--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T FIND THEM!? YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO PUT THE CUFFS ON 'EM!
HOW DO THOSE WEIRDOS PULL OFF THEIR VANISHING ACT!?
FORAYS ARE MADE INTO THEATRICAL COSTUME LOFTS, WHERE THE MOST COLORFUL APPAREL VANISHES WITH THE RAIDERS.
I'LL LOOK LIKE A PRINCE IN THIS JACKET!
AND I, A GENERAL!
THE NIGHT PEOPLE ARE AS INSCRUTABLE AS THEIR STRANGE DESIRES. THEY STRIKE AND VANISH AT WILL -- AND LEAVE BEHIND THEM A PUZZLED CITY, UNABLE TO COPE WITH A HUMAN RAT-PACK!
BROTHER SEARCHER WILL LOVE THIS GLOBE!
MIDNIGHT MOVIE THEATERS SUFFER THE SUDDEN LOSS OF CURRENT FILMS... PERFORMANCES ARE CUT OFF IN MID-SHOWING...
GET OUT OF THIS PROJECTION BOOTH!!
OWW!

MEANWHILE, IN DISTANT WASHINGTON D.C., CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON ARE VISITORS TO SHIELD DETENTION QUARTERS.
HE'S IN HERE--
THANK YOU. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG...
YOU COULD CALL IT A PARTING RAP WITH A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY...
LET'S NOT BE TOO ROUGH WITH MASON HARDING. HE'S A BROKEN AND BITTER MAN WITH LONG AND EMPTY YEARS AHEAD OF HIM...
HUNDREDS OF MY BLACK BROTHERS ARE ON THE SAME TRIP FOR DOING MUCH LESS...
THE NEXT MOMENT, THE DOOR IS PUSHED OPEN. CAP AND THE FALCON ARE ADMITTED TO A BARE ROOM WITH A LONE, GUARDED OCCUPANT...
HELLO, HARDING. WE'VE COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE!
EASY, FALCON...
HE MEANS TO SAY THAT IT'S ALL OVER, HARDING. THE CONSPIRACY HAS BEEN SQUASHED.
YOUR SO-CALLED "FRIENDS" HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP--AND THEIR KING-SIZED "MADBOMB" WENT TO PIECES BEFORE IT COULD SATURATE THE COUNTRY WITH SONIC MIND WAVES!!
IN SHORT, THE COUNTRY IS STILL SAFE AND SOUND!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE--TO TELL YOU THAT WE'VE FINISHED A RUGGED JOB THAT COULD HAVE BEEN TOUGHER WITHOUT YOUR INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL HELP!
SPARE ME THE ACCOLADES, GENTLEMEN--I MERELY DID WHAT WAS EXPEDIENT..
I BELIEVE IT, BUT CAP DOESN'T! HE THINKS YOU HAD REGRETS --THAT IN THE CRUNCH, YOU REMAINED LOYAL TO THIS NATION!

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THAT'S RIGHT, HARDING. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A MAN OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC STANDING COULD HAVE THROWN IN WITH THOSE JACKALS FOR REASONS OTHER THAN DEEP, PERSONAL STRESS--
HE MEANS... YOUR DAUGHTER.

YES, YOUR DAUGHTER! WHOSE LINGERING ILLNESS DROVE YOU-- A MAN PLAGUED BY VANISHING FINANCIAL RESOURCES--TO SEIZE UPON THE PROMISES OF A SINISTER ORGANIZATION!
WHAT THE HECK, HARDING. IT'S ALL BEHIND YOU NOW.

I'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT YOU DID A JOB FOR US. IF WE HADN'T WORN THESE SONIC NEUTRALIZERS YOU DESIGNED FOR US, OUR ASSAULT UNITS WOULD'VE TAKEN SOME SERIOUS CASUALTIES FROM THE WACKY WAVES OF THAT MAD-BOMB!
THAT IS A PLUS FOR ME--ISN'T IT...?

MIND YOU, I DON'T GIVE A HOOT ABOUT MY FATE AT THIS POINT--BUT I MUST BE ASSURED THAT MY DAUGHTER IS GIVEN THE PROPER MEDICAL AID...
THERE WAS NEVER ANY QUESTION OF THAT-- WHAT'S MORE, YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO VISIT HER BEFORE--

GO ON, SAY IT! "BEFORE I'M TAKEN OFF TO PRISON!"
A MAN WHO SOLD HIS COUNTRY AND THEN SAVED IT! IRONIC, ISN'T IT!!
NO, HARDING. THE WORD IS "TRAGIC"! HOWEVER, YOUR SENTENCE WILL BE LIGHTER BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP!

IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE, HARDING... IF THE OTHER SIDE HAD WON, YOU'D HAVE BEEN A DEAD MAN. THOSE ANIMALS WOULD'VE EATEN YOUR KIND IN NO TIME.
LET'S GO, FALCON...

LATER, IN A HOTEL ROOM CHOSEN BY SHIELD HEADQUARTERS...
TURN DOWN THE VOICE-BOX, CAP! I'M TUNING IN ON THE MUSIC MY WOMAN MAKES!
SAY! ASK HER ABOUT SHARON, WILL YOU?
MAN, THIS IS THE PART I LIKE MOST ABOUT A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT-- CLEANING IT OUT OF YOUR ACHING BONES! AND JUST BEING THE ORDINARY JOE THAT YOU KNOW YOU ARE!
WELL, HOLD IT DOWN, JOE! MY SUGAR-BABE IS ABOUT TO GASHAY ON STAGE!!
SO IS STEVE ROGERS, MISTER! HE'S GONNA WIPE AND DRY AND JUMP INTO CIVVIE THREADS AND SEE WHAT THE INSIDE OF A GOOD RESTAURANT LOOKS LIKE!!
WHEN I FINALLY CATCH UP WITH SHARON, WE'LL DOUBLE THE PLEASURE!!
QUIET, CAP. I'VE GOT HER!
HI, GOOD LOOKIN'! GUESS WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MISSING BLACKBIRD!?
YEAH, IT'S ME, MAMA! I MADE IT AGAIN! I'VE STILL GOT EVERY FEATHER!!
WHAT'CHA LAUGHIN' AT, CHICK? FEATHERS MAKE YOU TICKLISH?--WHAT? WHAT'S A NIGHT PEOPLE? COME ON, BABY, YOU'RE PUTTIN' ME ON!
HEY! YOU'RE REALLY CRACKIN' UP, AIN'T-CHA? FORGET THAT JIVE AND SPEAK TO ME! I COULD USE A FEW LOVIN' WORDS, LEILA!
IN NEW YORK CITY...
LEILA! Y'HEAR ME?
HAHAHAHAHA!! I JUST CAN'T HELP IT, SAM! THIS WEIRD GANG OF "LAUREL AND HARDY" TYPES IS HEISTING EVERY-THING IN TOWN BUT MONEY!!
YEAH! YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR SHOPPING LIST!
NIGHT PEOPLE NONSENSE CONTINUES!!

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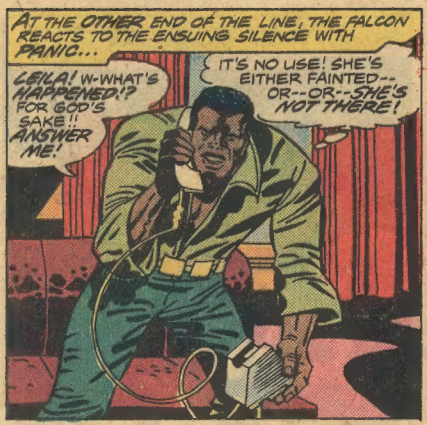
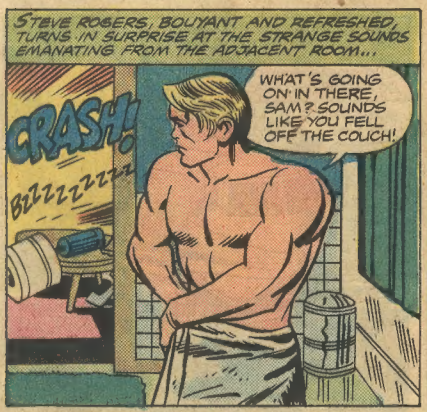
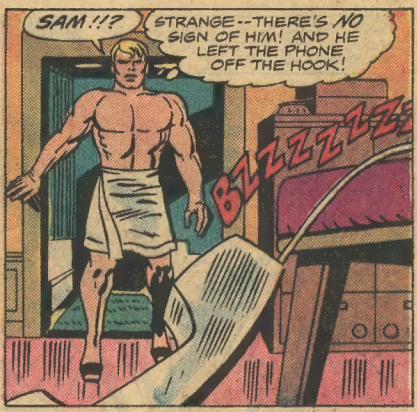
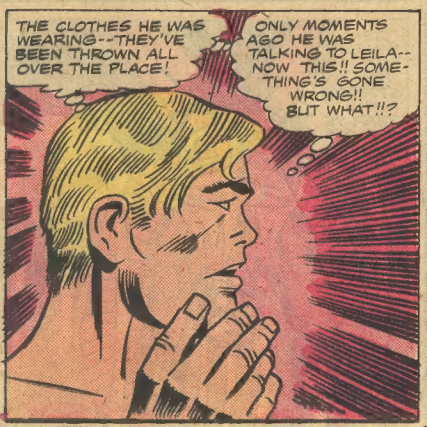
COME ON, LEILA! I'VE JUST COME THROUGH THE BIG CHOPPER, AND I'D LIKE T'HEAR SOME SWEET TALK!
LISTEN TO THIS, SAM! LAST NIGHT THOSE CLOWNS STOLE A HARP FROM THE PHILHARMONIC, A SHIPMENT OF MARVEL COMICS, TEN ANTIQUE TELEPHONES, AND A JUDGE'S GAVEL FROM THE MUNICIPAL COURT!
WELL, IT WON'T BE A FEDERAL CASE UNTIL THOSE DING DONGS STEAL YOU, HONEY!
HAHAHAHAHA! OH, FLAP YOUR WINGS AND FLY ON HOME, FALCON! I MISS MY VERY OWN SUPER-HERO!
RECORD
FIN
AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE LEILA'S WINDOW...
LISTEN, BROTHER HARMONY!
DON'T SNICKER, SAM WILSON! OUR CITY HAS RUN DRY OF SUPER-HEROES, JUST WHEN IT NEEDS ONE BADLY! THIS GAGGLE OF GOOFIES MAY BE WACKED OUT, BUT THEY'RE BATTING A THOUSAND!
THAT CHARMING CREATURE KNOWS A REAL SUPER-HERO, BROTHER PEACH PIE! SHE'S A FRIEND OF THE FALCON!
WITH UNCANNY STEALTH, THE INTRUDERS QUIETLY ENTER LEILA'S APARTMENT!!
SAY IT AGAIN, SAM. YEAH-- IT'S REAL NICE, MISTER FEATHERS! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU--!
THE NIGHT PEOPLE LUNGE WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS!! LEILA IS PULLED FROM HER CHAIR AND VANISHES WITH A LOUD CRY!!
LEILA! LEILA! ANSWER ME!
SAM! THE NIGHT PEOPL--!! MMFFF--


AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE, THE FALCON REACTS TO THE ENSUING SILENCE WITH PANIC...
LEILA! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED!? FOR GOD'S SAKE!! ANSWER ME!
IT'S NO USE! SHE'S EITHER FAINTED--OR--OR--SHE'S NOT THERE!

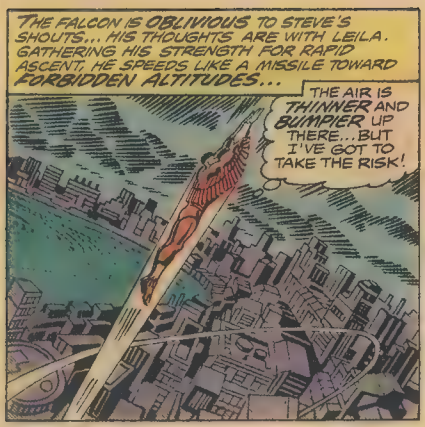
THE FALCON'S THOUGHTS LEAP BACK TO LEILA'S STIFLED CRY! THE WORDS NOW FILL HIM WITH DREAD!
"NIGHT PEOPLE"! THAT'S WHAT SHE YELLED! TH-THEY'VE TAKEN HER!

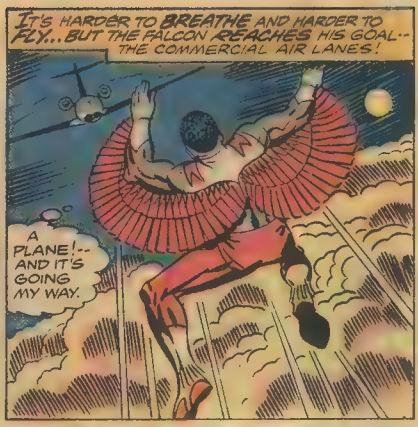

STEVE ROGERS, BOUYANT AND REFRESHED, TURNS IN SURPRISE AT THE STRANGE SOUNDS EMANATING FROM THE ADJACENT ROOM...
CRASH!
BZZZZZZZZ
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE, SAM?. SOUNDS LIKE YOU FELL OFF THE COUCH!

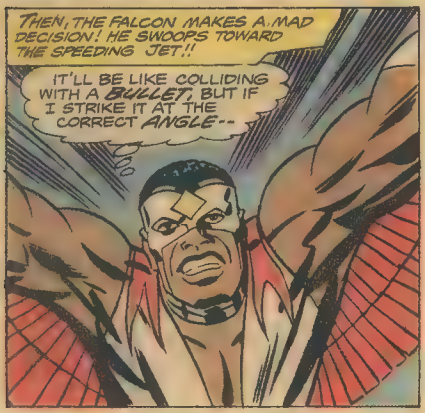

SAM!!?
STRANGE--THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM! AND HE LEFT THE PHONE OFF THE HOOK!
BZZZZZZZ

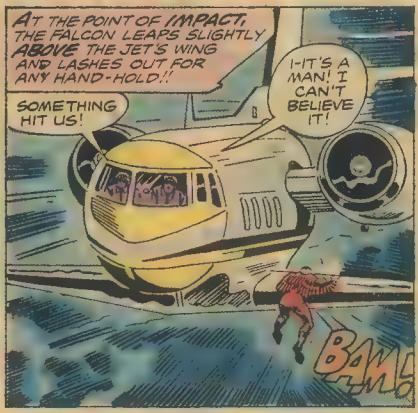

THE CLOTHES HE WAS WEARING--THEY'VE BEEN THROWN ALL OVER THE PLACE!
ONLY MOMENTS AGO HE WAS TALKING TO LEILA--NOW THIS!! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!! BUT WHAT!!?

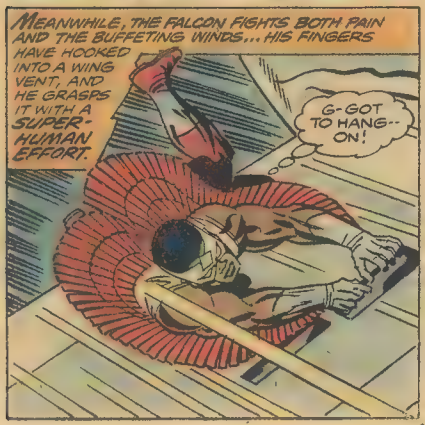
STEVE RUSHES TO THE WINDOW...
THERE HE IS!
FALCON! COME BACK! COME BACK!

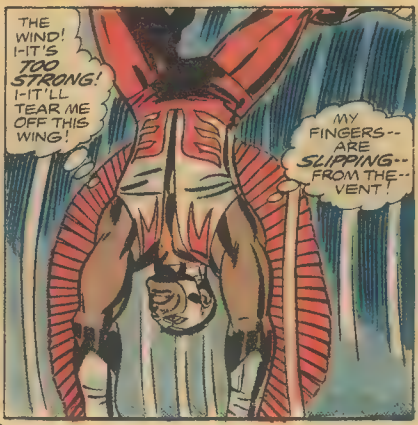

THE FALCON IS OBLIVIOUS TO STEVE'S SHOUTS... HIS THOUGHTS ARE WITH LEILA. GATHERING HIS STRENGTH FOR RAPID ASCENT, HE SPEEDS LIKE A MISSILE TOWARD FORBIDDEN ALTITUDES...
THE AIR IS THINNER AND BUMPIER UP THERE...BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE RISK!

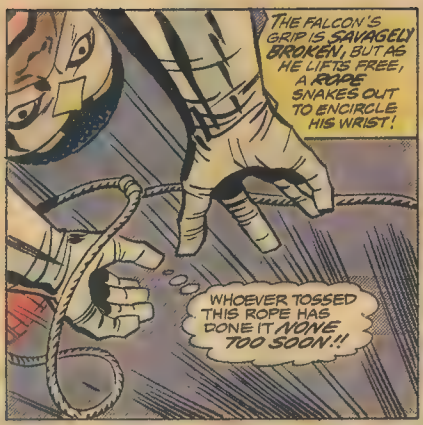

IT'S HARDER TO BREATHE AND HARDER TO FLY...BUT THE FALCON REACHES HIS GOAL--THE COMMERCIAL AIR LANES!
A PLANE!--AND IT'S GOING MY WAY.


THEN, THE FALCON MAKES A MAD DECISION! HE SWOOPS TOWARD THE SPEEDING JET.!!
IT'LL BE LIKE COLLIDING WITH A BULLET, BUT IF I STRIKE IT AT THE CORRECT ANGLE--

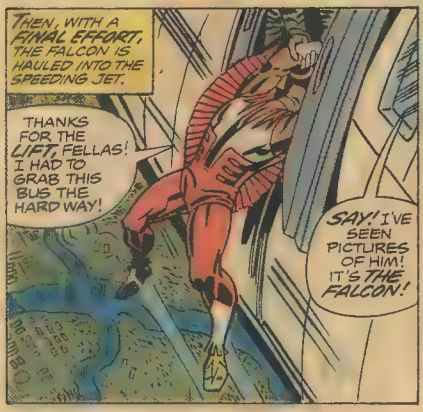

AT THE POINT OF IMPACT, THE FALCON LEAPS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE JET'S WING AND LASHES OUT FOR ANY HAND-HOLD.!!
SOMETHING HIT US!
I-IT'S A MAN! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BAM!


MEANWHILE, THE FALCON FIGHTS BOTH PAIN AND THE BUFFETING WINDS... HIS FINGERS HAVE HOOKED INTO A WING VENT, AND HE GRASPS IT WITH A SUPER-HUMAN EFFORT.
G-GOT TO HANG--ON!

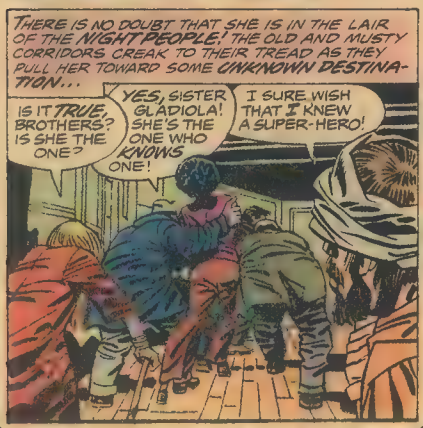

THE WIND! I-IT'S TOO STRONG! I-IT'LL TEAR ME OFF THIS WING!
MY FINGERS--ARE SLIPPING--FROM THE--VENT!

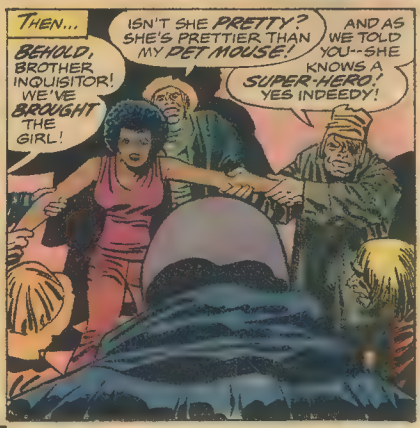

THE FALCON'S GRIP IS SAVAGELY BROKEN, BUT AS HE LIFTS FREE, A ROPE SNAKES OUT TO ENCIRCLE HIS WRIST!
WHOEVER TOSSED THIS ROPE HAS DONE IT NONE TOO SOON!!

HOLD ON TO OUR CATCH, BOYS! WE CAN'T LOSE THIS BIRD, NOW THAT WE'VE GOT HIM!
THEY'RE YANKING ME UP! I-IF THIS ROPE DOESN'T SNAP, I'M HOME FREE!


THEN, WITH A FINAL EFFORT, THE FALCON IS HAULED INTO THE SPEEDING JET.
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, FELLAS! I HAD TO GRAB THIS BUS THE HARD WAY!
SAY! I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF HIM! IT'S THE FALCON!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, LEILA FINDS HERSELF IN AN UNIDENTIFIABLE HALF-WORLD OF SINISTER SHADOWS AND GROTESQUE PARODIES OF THE HUMAN FORM.
W-WHAT IS THIS PLACE? I-I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE!!
COME ALONG!


THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SHE IS IN THE LAIR OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE! THE OLD AND MUSTY CORRIDORS CREAK TO THEIR TREAD AS THEY PULL HER TOWARD SOME UNKNOWN DESTINATION...
IS IT TRUE, BROTHERS? IS SHE THE ONE?
YES, SISTER GLADIOLA! SHE'S THE ONE WHO KNOWS ONE!
I SURE WISH THAT I KNEW A SUPER-HERO!


THEN...
BEHOLD, BROTHER INQUISITOR! WE'VE BROUGHT THE GIRL!
ISN'T SHE PRETTY? SHE'S PRETTIER THAN MY PET MOUSE!
AND AS WE TOLD YOU--SHE KNOWS A SUPER-HERO! YES INDEEDY!

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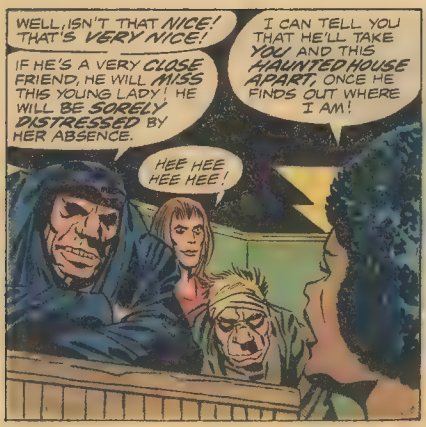
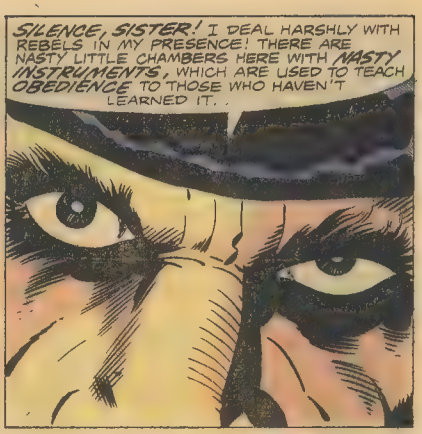
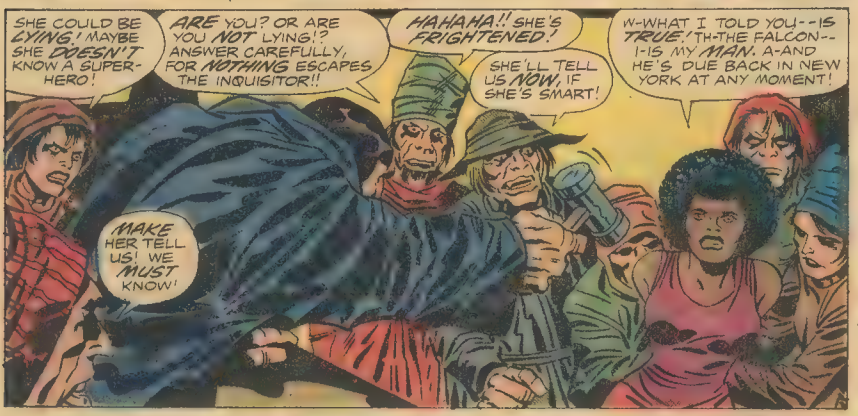
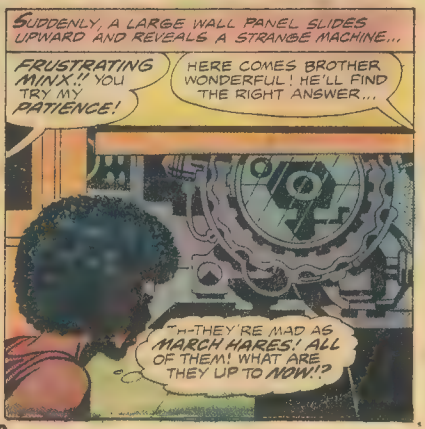
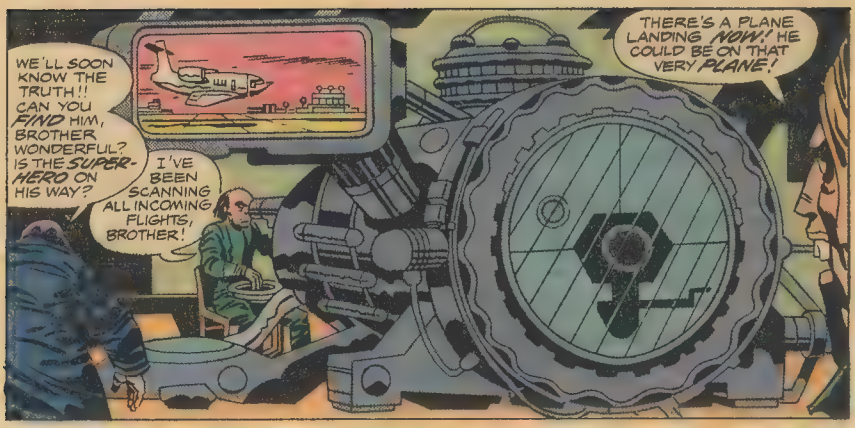

WELL, ISN'T THAT NICE! THAT'S VERY NICE!
IF HE'S A VERY CLOSE FRIEND, HE WILL MISS THIS YOUNG LADY! HE WILL BE SORELY DISTRESSED BY HER ABSENCE.
I CAN TELL YOU THAT HE'LL TAKE YOU AND THIS HAUNTED HOUSE APART, ONCE HE FINDS OUT WHERE I AM!
HEE HEE HEE HEE!


SILENCE, SISTER! I DEAL HARSHLY WITH REBELS IN MY PRESENCE! THERE ARE NASTY LITTLE CHAMBERS HERE WITH NASTY INSTRUMENTS, WHICH ARE USED TO TEACH OBEDIENCE TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T LEARNED IT. .

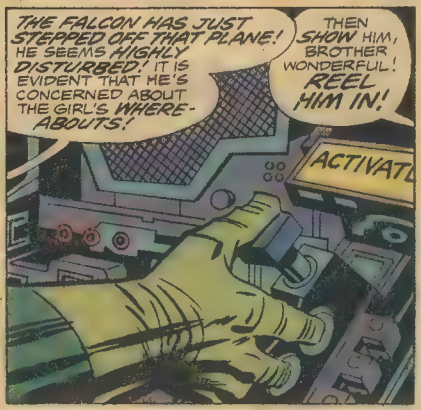

SHE COULD BE LYING! MAYBE SHE DOESN'T KNOW A SUPER-HERO!
ARE YOU? OR ARE YOU NOT LYING!? ANSWER CAREFULLY, FOR NOTHING ESCAPES THE INQUISITOR!!
HAHAHA!! SHE'S FRIGHTENED!
SHE'LL TELL US NOW, IF SHE'S SMART!
W-WHAT I TOLD YOU--IS TRUE! TH-THE FALCON--I-IS MY MAN. A-AND HE'S DUE BACK IN NEW YORK AT ANY MOMENT!
MAKE HER TELL US! WE MUST KNOW!

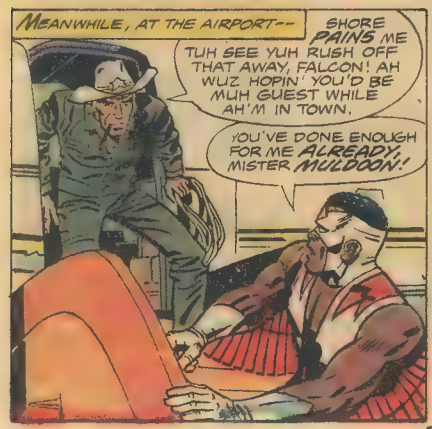
AT ANY MOMENT, EH? WELL, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!!? WHEN WILL HE ARRIVE? WHAT DAY? WHAT HOUR? WHAT TRAIN? WHAT PLANE?
I-I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!

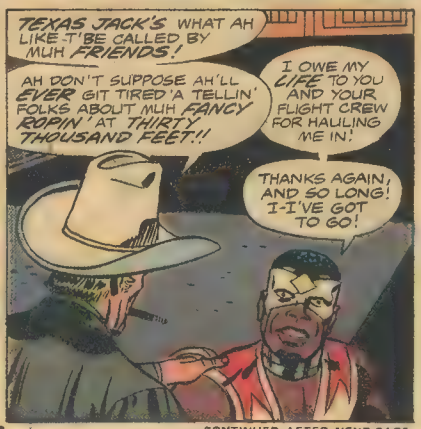

SUDDENLY, A LARGE WALL PANEL SLIDES UPWARD AND REVEALS A STRANGE MACHINE...
FRUSTRATING MINX!! YOU TRY MY PATIENCE!
HERE COMES BROTHER WONDERFUL! HE'LL FIND THE RIGHT ANSWER...
TH-THEY'RE MAD AS MARCH HARES! ALL OF THEM! WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW!?


WE'LL SOON KNOW THE TRUTH!! CAN YOU FIND HIM, BROTHER WONDERFUL? IS THE SUPER-HERO ON HIS WAY?
I'VE BEEN SCANNING ALL INCOMING FLIGHTS, BROTHER!
THERE'S A PLANE LANDING NOW! HE COULD BE ON THAT VERY PLANE!

I TAKE IT THAT YOUR MACHINE IS PRIMED TO BRING HIM HERE! WE WOULDN'T WANT IT TO FAIL AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TASK, WOULD WE?
TO VOICE ANY DOUBT IS AN INSULT TO MY GENIUS! HAVE I NOT THE WORLD'S GREATEST MIND?
WAIT! I SEE HIM! HE'S ARRIVED!


THE FALCON HAS JUST STEPPED OFF THAT PLANE! HE SEEMS HIGHLY DISTURBED! IT IS EVIDENT THAT HE'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE GIRL'S WHERE-ABOUTS!
THEN SHOW HIM, BROTHER WONDERFUL! REEL HIM IN!
ACTIVATE


MEANWHILE, AT THE AIRPORT--
SHORE PAINS ME TUH SEE YUH RUSH OFF THAT AWAY, FALCON! AH WUZ HOPIN' YOU'D BE MUH GUEST WHILE AH'M IN TOWN.
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH FOR ME ALREADY, MISTER MULDOON!


TEXAS JACK'S WHAT AH LIKE T'BE CALLED BY MUH FRIENDS!
AH DON'T SUPPOSE AH'LL EVER GIT TIRED 'A TELLIN' FOLKS ABOUT MUH FANCY ROPIN' AT THIRTY THOUSAND FEET!!
I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU AND YOUR FLIGHT CREW FOR HAULING ME IN!
THANKS AGAIN, AND SO LONG! I-I'VE GOT TO GO!

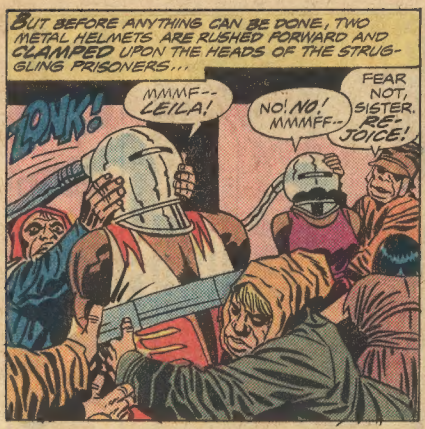
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

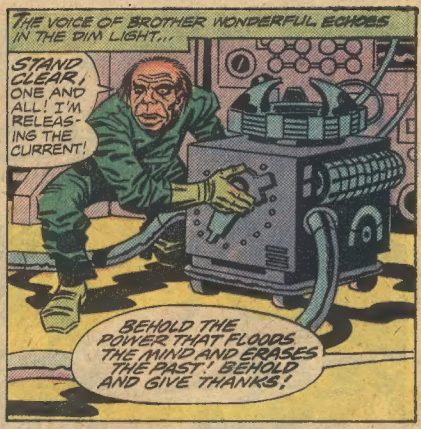
THE FALCON TAKES TO THE AIR BEFORE HIS BENEFACTOR CAN DETAIN HIM ANY LONGER...
DON'T FORGIT, NOW! LOOK ME UP WHEN YUH GIT YORE BUSINESS DONE!
SURE WILL.!!
SUDDENLY, MULDOON'S EYES WIDEN IN WONDER AND FEAR.!! HE SHOUTS A WARNING TO THE FALCON!!
FALCON! EYES FRONT! LOOK OUT!!
IT LOOKS LIKE A DARK CLOUD WITH A BRIGHT CENTRAL CORE. IT PUFFS INTO EXISTENCE DIRECTLY IN THE FALCON'S PATH. HE PLUNGES HEADLONG INTO IT--AND VANISHES!!
THE STRANGE PHENOMENON IS THE MUCH-SOUGHT DOOR TO ZERO STREET -- THE PORTAL THROUGH WHICH THE NIGHT PEOPLE ENTER AND LEAVE THE CITY. WHEN IT SHRINKS IN SIZE AND WINKS OUT, THE DIMENSIONAL DOOR IS CLOSED TO ALL OUTSIDERS...
POF!
BUT AT ITS OTHER END, THE PASSAGE IS STILL OPEN. THE FALCON FINDS HIMSELF INSTANTANEOUSLY TRANSPORTED TO THE NIGHT PEOPLE'S DOMAIN...
BLAZING BULLFROGS!!
READY, BROTHER! WHILE HIS SENSES REEL WITH SURPRISE!
THIS WILL PUT HIM UNDER IMMEDIATE CONTROL!

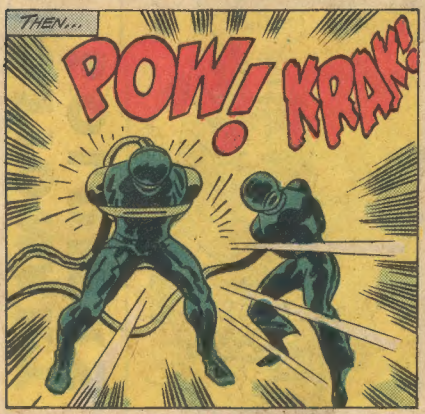
THE FALCON IS MET BY A SUDDEN BLAST OF GAS WHICH DULLS HIS NERVE CENTERS AND COMPLETELY DISORIENTS HIM...
HIS MOVEMENTS ARE SLOWING DOWN! HE STUMBLES ABOUT!
FFSSSSS!!!
LIKE A DEEP WATER DIVER, THE FALCON SEEMS CAUGHT IN THE COILS OF POWERFUL CURRENTS HE CANNOT COPE WITH...
SEIZE HIM! BIND HIM!
FORCE HIS ARMS BEHIND HIS BACK!
THIS MAGNETIC BELT WILL HOLD HIM!
BROTHER WONDERFUL THINKS OF EVERYTHING! HE MAKES THINGS FOR ANY KIND OF TASK!
HEY! EASY, MAN! EASY!
CHECK HIS BONDS! HE MUST BE RENDERED HELPLESS!
WE'VE DONE IT, BROTHERS! WE NOW HAVE A SUPER-HERO OF OUR VERY OWN!
I-I'VE FLOWN INTO A TRAP! AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED!
WELCOME TO ZERO STREET, HERO!
THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS HAVE WORN OFF, AND AS THE FALCON EYES HIS CAPTORS, HE SEES IN THEIR VACUOUS FACES THE MOST TERRIFYING OF ALL DANGERS -- DEALING WITH THE INSANE!!
ER--THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT A BROTHER-- BROTHER!
OH, BUT YOU'RE NOT A BROTHER YET! THE INQUISITION WAITS FOR YOU!!
HEE! HEE! HEE!
THE SUPER-HERO IS PREPARED FOR THE ORDEAL!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

PUSHED AND PRODDED BY THE NIGHT PEOPLE, THE NEW ARRIVAL IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE INQUISTOR. THE FALCON GETS HIS FIRST GLIMPSE OF LEILA, AND IS ASSURED THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN HARMED...
PLAY IT COOL, LEILA! WE'RE IN A TIGHT SPOT. I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS, SOMEHOW...
SAM --YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I-IT'S YOU THEY'RE AFTER! AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!
YOU'LL BOTH FIND OUT WHY! BUT NOT BEFORE YOU'RE PROPERLY CHASTISED!
THEY'RE REBELS! ANYONE CAN SEE THAT THEY'RE SPOILING FOR TROUBLE!
TRUE, BROTHER, TRUE! WITHIN THESE POOR SOULS ARE ALL THE FESTERING EVILS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD. BUT WE SHALL CLEANSE THEM OF THESE IMPURITIES! WE SHALL PURGE THEM, UNTIL, LIKE US, THEY SHINE WITH INNER GLORY!
LOOK, THERE'S NO NEED TO GET EXCITED... WE CAN HARDLY MAKE ANY HOSTILE MOVES.
IF YOU RELEASE LEILA AND RETURN HER SAFELY TO HER APARTMENT, I'M QUITE WILLING TO STAY HERE AND LISTEN TO YOUR DEAL.
IMPOSSIBLE! BOTH OF YOU SHALL STAY TO BE PURIFIED! NO OTHER JOY CAN COMPARE TO THE BLESSING OF SHOCK TREATMENT!
SHOCK TREATMENT!!?? W-WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, FALCON!!


BUT BEFORE ANYTHING CAN BE DONE, TWO METAL HELMETS ARE RUSHED FORWARD AND CLAMPED UPON THE HEADS OF THE STRUGGLING PRISONERS...
ZONK!
MMMF--LEILA!
NO! NO! MMMFF--
FEAR NOT, SISTER. REJOICE!


THE VOICE OF BROTHER WONDERFUL ECHOES IN THE DIM LIGHT...
STAND CLEAR, ONE AND ALL! I'M RELEASING THE CURRENT!
BEHOLD THE POWER THAT FLOODS THE MIND AND ERASES THE PAST! BEHOLD AND GIVE THANKS!


THEN...
POW!
KRAK!

STEVE ROGERS, AT THAT MOMENT, HOLDS COUNSEL AT SHIELD HEADQUARTERS IN THE COMBAT GARB OF CAPTAIN AMERICA!
THERE'S BEEN NO FURTHER WORD. THE FALCON AND HIS WOMAN ARE STILL MISSING!
WE SIMPLY CAN'T LET IT GO AT THAT!

SHIELD IS PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS, CAP-- BUT WE'RE UP AGAINST SOME HIGHLY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES...
WE HAVE NO CLUES LEADING TO THIS LEILA'S DISAPPEARANCE.

BUT, WE HAVE WITNESSES IN NEW YORK WHO WILL SWEAR THAT THEY SAW THE FALCON LITERALLY VANISH INTO THIN AIR!
TH-THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!

INCREDIBLE, YOU SAY?????
THEN PREPARE FOR THE INDESCRIBABLE!
COMING NEXT--
MAD, MAD
DIMENSION

To the Staff of CAPTAIN AMERICA:

I would like to begin by saying that you guys have really come far since Kirby returned to the fold. I had always hoped you would make some changes on the book concerning artists. Frank Robbins was good, but he didn't fit on CAPTAIN AMERICA. Kirby, on the other hand, was made for CAP! You guys have really come through for us!

Well, the time has come for me to make another request...and I don't think too many fans have brought up this particular demand. It concerns the covers of the past 60 or so issues. Now, I have not been collecting this magazine for very long—less than two years, actually—but I have realized that CAPTAIN AMERICA has a lot of popularity. And so, after putting up with a certain monotony of colors for a while, I've come to the conclusion that the constant repetition of alternating black and yellow cover backgrounds is just not right. I realize that you want to color the logo in red, white, and blue to represent our country, but surely you can come up with some other contrasting colors for the background. Such tones as light blue, light green, purple, or light brown in a variety of combinations could back up the masthead and still be bright and exciting. I think a grand institution such as Marvel can do almost anything. And I think you can make CAPTAIN AMERICA an even more dynamic title by adding more varied color to the covers.

Michael Seibert
Grand Forks AFB
Grand Forks, ND 58201

And we're trying, Michael, we're trying! As a matter of fact, CAP #199, with its gorgeous green background, was but the first of a series of experiments at breaking the yellow/black color cycle. Let us know how successful it was, okay?

Dear Marvel Fellows and Letter Readers:

When Jack first took over CAPTAIN AMERICA, I was—to say the least—disappointed. After the tremendous write-up that Kirby had been given, I expected, maybe, the impossible of Jack. The art was what I had expected. However, the story seemed slightly lacking. I thought it had moved too fast and that Jack had missed many possible sub-plots. As I say, this was at the beginning. As the series progressed, I saw that there was no room for most of these. There was already so much action that, if the series was to reach its culmination in the 200th issue, it could not afford too much digression.

With each succeeding issue, the series improves. Jack has taken the Falcon and made him into as important a character as Cap. This is excellent. This is as it was meant to be. Now if only we could get rid of Cap's super-strength somehow. I have always felt that it should never have been given to him. I say get rid of it, not forget about it. Jack appeared to have just forgotten about it in his early issues. Cap and Falc should not be equal in a contest of strength (issue #193). I would like to see Cap lose it in some well thought out manner. Cap always was a "costumed athlete." That helped to make him unique, along with his representation of America.

I hope you pay attention to all suggestions you receive, and not just the ones you print.

Russ Pass
6723 N. Drake
Lincolnwood, IL 60645

We do, Russ! We do indeed!

Dear Jack,

I have to apologize. I was extremely critical over your treatment of CAPTAIN AMERICA in issues #193 through 196. Then came #'s 197 & 198, and I realized that your earlier problems were due to re-orientation and adjustment to the frenetic Marvel style. You've found your feet, and you're obviously moving fast.

Your artwork has never been a problem. Your rendition of Cap is better than Sal Buscema's simple drawing, and Frank Robbins' overly rugged lines. Frank Giacoia is a suitable inker for you, and it's good to see that he'll be continuing on the mag. No, your artwork wasn't the problem, not at all.

It was your story-telling technique. Your simplistic method—sparse captions and dialogue direct to the point, the over-kill of the patriotism theme, and the slightly melodramatic atmosphere of the entire story—is very much alien to the newer breed of Marvel writers. I've gotten used to their style, and while there are problems with theirs as well, I prefer theirs to yours. I've grown to expect a little more than action and a to-the-death situation like the Madbomb that you seem to be able to provide.

But you're improving. Your continuity is getting better, and your plotting tighter. (I would like to know what happened to the incipient Taurey-Rogers duel, mentioned in #194, though.) The "Love Story" subtheme in #198 is being handled well in the beginning—it was this that began to change my opinion of your work. It is such a novelty to have a quick, deep emotional involvement from one of our heroes, that it appeals to my romantic nature. Do it the way it has started, and keep it along the lines of "Love Story." Don't have Carol live, and don't have Cap fall so deeply that it becomes unrealistic. "Love Story" covered a good amount of time—two years is my guess—while Cap is limited to just a few months at the most, so you can't have the relationship go as deeply. I also hope that this doesn't mean that Sharon Carter is written out of Cap's life permanently.

A more detailed analysis of the entire Bicentennial saga will come after I read #200. Just wanted to write and apologize for earlier criticisms, and to wish you good luck in the future. Ciao!

Matthew Kreps
126/22 Derekh Metzada
Beer Sheva, Israel

Dear Jack and Stan, and whole Marvel clan,

This has nothing to do with CAPTAIN AMERICA per se, although I do think you're doing a bang-up job. It has to do with the title of your letter column. "Let's Rap with Cap!" is starting to sound as silly and archaic as "Right On!" Could we please have a new title for Cap's next 200 issues? I have a personal preference for "Red-White-and-Blue Notes!", but I'd welcome almost anything that's new and fresh.

Lou Fetters
RR #2
Plainfield, IN 46168

Well, as is often the case with requests such as this, we're throwing the floor open to Marveldom Assembled. What do you think, people? Should the Rap-line be retired in favor of Mr. Fetters' suggestion, should the old reliable stay on, or should something completely different take up a masthead residence? As always, it's up to you!

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! There's just enough space left to remind you that this is the month of our latest, greatest Marvel Treasury Edition...CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL BATTLES! And you won't want to miss this one, folks, 'cause it's 80-pages of ALL-NEW material, fresh from the frantic fingers of the King himself! And...hold on to your hats...the inking on this buck-fifty bonus was handled by not one, not two, but *three* of our ever-lovin' Bullpen greats! Namely: Johnny Romita, Herb Trimpe, and Barry Smith! It's an action-packed super-saga you'll never forget, so don't miss it! And join us back here in thirty days for more star-spangled glory! 'Nuff said!

scanned by *Wizard*